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Extension of the period of operation of the Madras Indebted Agriculturists (Temporary Relief) Act, 1954.

* 148 *Q*.—SRI M. KALYANASUNDRAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there is any proposal to extend the Madras Indebted Agriculturists (Temporary Relief) Act, 1954, beyond 31st December 1954; and

(*b*) whether the Government have received any representation from the representatives of Tamilnad Kisan Sabha for extending the said Act?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" (*a*) & (*b*) The period of operation of the Act already extends up to the 5th February 1955. Representations have been received from various bodies for further extension of this period and the matter is under the consideration of Government."

* 149 *Q*.—SRI M. KALYANASUNDRAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received copies of the resolutions passed at the conferences of the peasants in the districts of Tanjore, Coimbatore, Tiruchirappalli, Tirunelveli, etc., regarding the extension of the Madras Indebted Agriculturists (Temporary Relief) Act, 1954, for three more years; and

(*b*) what steps the Government propose to take on these resolutions?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" (*a*) Yes, Sir.

" (*b*) The matter is under the consideration of Government."

SRI M. KALYANASUNDRAM :—" இந்தசபை ஒத்திவைக்கப்படுவதற்கு முன்பு இந்த மசோதா சபை முன் கொண்டுவரப்படுமா என்று அறிய விரும்புகிறேன்."

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" There is time till February 5th. Meanwhile, the Congress Legislature Party has appointed a Committee to go into the question. That will meet soon and after its meeting, I will be able to say something definite."

Time-limit for the repayment of short-term loans.

* 150 *Q*.—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have fixed any time-limit for the peasants to repay the short-term loans which were granted by the Government to them under the National Extension Service in Malabar; and

(*b*) if so, the time-limit to return the loans?

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THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (a) Yes, Sir.

" (b) All short-term loans are ordinarily repayable within a period of five years."

Reorganization of Producers'-cum-Consumers' Co-operative Societies in Malabar into multi-purpose societies.

* 278 Q.—SRI P. K. GOPALAKRISHNAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have received any representation from the Producers'-*cum*-Consumers' Co-operative Societies in Malabar for their conversion into multi-purpose societies ; and

(b) if so, the action proposed to be taken thereon?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (a) Yes, Sir. Several Producers'-*cum*-Consumers' Co-operative Societies in Malabar have requested that they might be reorganized into multi-purpose societies on the basis of limited liability.

" (b) The Government examined the request in consultation with the Registrar of Co-operative Societies and found that it was not possible to comply with it."

* 279 Q.—SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have received any representation from the Producers'-*cum*-Consumers' Co-operative Societies in Malabar requesting that they may be changed into multi-purpose co-operative societies; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (a) & (b) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer furnished to Madras Legislative Assembly starred question No. 278 by Sri P. K. Gopalakrishnan, M.L.A., on the same subject."

SRI P. K. GOPALAKRISHNAN :—" Sir, there are 107 Producers'-*cum*-Consumers' Co-operative Societies in Malabar. They have a very large amount of share-capital and a large amount of accumulated reserves. If they are allowed to function as multi-purpose societies, they can function usefully now that rationing and procurement have been abolished. Therefore, will the Government reconsider their position and see that these societies are allowed to function as multi-purpose societies with limited liability and not unlimited liability."

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" The Government have examined this question in consultation with the Registrar of Co-operative Societies and they see that under section 4 of the Madras Co-operative Societies Act, it is not feasible to convert them into multi-purpose societies on the basis of limited liability. However, Government have accepted another recommendation of the Registrar that the